



Glossocardia bosvallea

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: East Indies

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Glossocardia bosvallea* (L.f.) DC. in Wight Contrib Bot. Ind. 19. 1834; Gamble 2: 709(499). 1921. *Verbesina bosvallea* L.f. Suppl. Pl. 379. 1781. *Glossocardia linearifolia* Cass. Diel. Sci. Nat. 19. 62: 1821; FBI 3: 308. 1881.

Description: Annual, diffuse or ascending herbs to 25 cm tall. Leaves pinnatisect, in rosette at the base, pinnules 1-2 cm long, linear, filiform, base decurrent, apex apiculate. Heads solitary, axillary, golden yellow, heterogamous. Achenes compressed.

Remarks: Common weed in sandy places, irrigated dry cultivated fields, crevices of rocks, road sides and on walls.



Gomphrena serrata

Family: Amaranthaceae

Vern. Name: Bogada Banthi

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Gomphrena serrata* L. Sp. Pl. 224.1753. *G. decumbens* Jacq. Hort. Schoenbr. T. 482. 1803; Gamble 2: 1179(825). 1925. *G. celosiodes* auct. Non Mart. Bennet Fl. Howrah 142.1979.

Description: Erect or ascending herbs to 50 cm. Leaves spiral, deltoid to elliptic-ovate, 1.5-6 x 2-4 cm, base truncate to acute, apex obtuse to acutely apiculate. Inflorescence in axillary, slender, lax, thyriform spike, sessile above the upper most pair of leaves. Flowers white. Fruit a hard nutlet, falling off with tepals. Seed annular, 2 x 1.5 mm.

Remarks: Occasional weed of cultivated fields, habitation and forest openings.



Grangea maderaspatana

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Grangea maderaspatana* (L.) Poir. in Lam. Encycl. Suppl. 2:825. 1912; FBI 3: 247. 1881; Gamble 2:680 (478). 1921. *Artemesia maderaspatana* L. Sp.Pl. 849. 1753.

Description: Annual, prostrate herbs, about 30 cm long, root stocks woody, branches striate, pubescent. Leaves oblanceolate or oblong, lyrate pinnatifid, sessile, lateral segments 0.5-1.5 x 0.2-1 cm, lobed, terminal segment 3-to many lobed or dentate, lobes acute. Heads solitary, axillary and terminal, yellow, heterogamous. Achenes obovate, ribbed.

Remarks: Common weed of edges of tanks, black cotton soils and moist places.



Hyptis suaveolens

Family: Lamiaceae

Pop. Name: Wild Spikenard

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – March

Citation: *Hyptis suaveolens* (L.) Poit. Ann. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. 7: 472 t. 29 f.2.1806; FBI 4: 630.1885; Gamble 2:1129(789)1924. *Ballota suaveolens* L. Syst. Nat. ed.10. 1100. 1759.

Description: Aromatic, erect, undershrubs to 3 m tall; branches terete to 4-gonous, ovate, 2-7 x 1-6 cm, chartaceous, strigose, base obliquely truncate to acute, irregularly serrulate, apex acute. Flowers in verticils or in short, stalked cymes, about 6-flowered, axillary; corolla blue. Nutlets 2, ovoid or oblong, 2 aborted and seen as rudimentary white structures at base, erect, basilar.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of forests, cultivated fields and along railway tracks and road sides.



Impatiens balsamina

Family: Balsaminaceae

Pop. Name: Impatiens, Balsam

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – January

Citation: *Impatiens balsamina* L. Sp. Pl. 938.1753; FBI 1: 453. 1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 142(101). 1915.

Description: Annual, erect herbs. Leaves alternate, 6-15 x 1-3 cm, elliptic-lanceolate, margin serrate, apex acuminate; petioles with 2 sessile glands, decurrent into a glandular petiole. Flowers 2 cm across, with long curved spur, 1-3 in the axils. Capsules 1-1.5 x 0.7-1 cm, ellipsoid, acute, tomentose.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common along streams of moist forests and occasionally along railway tracks; also runs wild in gardens.



Imperata cylindrica

Family: Poaceae

Pop. Name: Cogon Grass, Cotton Grass

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July– December

Citation: *Imperata cylindrica* (L.) Raensch. Nom. Bot. (3d.3)10.1797. *Langurus cylindrica* L. Syst. Net. ed .10. 2: 878.1759. *Imperata cylindrica* var. *koenigii* (Retz.) T.A. Durand & Schinz. Conspl. Fl. Africa 5: 694.1854; Fischer in Gamble 3: 1707(1184). 1934.

Description: An erect, perennial grass with solid leafy stems and creeping root stocks. Leaves linear, flat, 3.5-10 x 0.2-0.5 cm, convolute. Panicles oblong-lanceolate, 7-15 x 1-2 cm, spikelets elliptic-lanceolate, to 3 mm flowered, enveloped in low silky hairs. Seeds fluffy.

Remarks: Common in forest clearings and cultivated fields.



Indigofera astragalina

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: Hairy Indigo

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Indigofera astragalina* DC. Prodr. 2: 228.1825. *I. hirsuta* sensu Baker in Hook. f. FBI 2: 58.1876. p.p. non L. 1753; Gamble 1: 312 (221).1918.

Description: Annual erect, bushy herb or undershrub to 1 m tall. Branches covered with soft spreading reddish hairs. Leaflets opposite, membranous, 4-6 pairs, elliptic-oblong. Flowers red, many, crowded in erect racemes. Calyx densely pubescent. Pod tetragonous, 1.5-2 cm long, usually white hairy; seeds 6, glabrous.

Remarks: Common weed of cultivated fields and degraded forests.



Indigofera glandulosa

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Indigofera glandulosa* Roxb. ex Willd. Sp. Pl. 3: 1227.1800; FBI 2: 94.1876; Gamble 1: 309(218).1918.

Description: Erect branched herbs. Leaves 3-foliate; leaflets oblanceolate, obtuse, with black dots beneath to 2 x 1 cm, Raceme 5-7 flowered. Calyx incised to more than halfway. Pod cylindrical, dentately winged on either side of suture, 2-seeded. 0.5 cm long.

Remarks: Common weed of cultivated fields, scrub and forests.



Indigofera linifolia

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – January

Citation: *Indigofera linifolia* (L.f.) Retz. Obs. Bot. 4: 29.1786; Gamble 1: 305(218). 1918. *Hedysarum linifolium* L.f. Suppl. Pl. 331. 1781.

Description: Diffuse herbs to 30 cm tall. Stems terete; branches silvery canescent. Leaves simple, linear, base cuneate, entire, apex acute, to 3 x 0.4 cm. Flowers bright red, in axillary, 6-8-flowered racemes. Pod silvery, globose, mucronate, 0.2 cm across; seed solitary, globose.

Remarks: Common along railway tracks, road sides and in scrub, grasslands and forests.



Indigofera linnaei

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Tropical Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Indigofera linnaei* Ali, Bot. Notiser 111:545.1998. *I. enneaphylla* L. Mant. Pl. Alt 272.1771. nom. illeg. FBI 2: 94.1876; Gamble 1: 309(218).1918.

Description: Trailing, profusely branched herbs; branches grey-pubescent. Leaves odd pinnate, leaflets 4 or 5 pairs, alternate, oblong-obovate, obtuse, to 1 x 0.5cm. Flowers bright red in axillary, 4-8-flowered racemes. Calyx incised to more than half way. Pod subovoid, turgid, white-hirsute, 2-seeded.

Remarks: Common weed of cultivated fields, scrub and occasionally in grasslands and forests..



Indigofera trita

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Indigofera trita* L.f. Suppl. Pl. 335. 1781; FBI 2: 96. 1876; Ali Fl. of W. Pakistan 100: 78.1977.

Description: Grey-pubescent undershrubs to 1.2 m tall. Leaflets 3, oblong or obovate, subacute or obtuse, to 1-8 x 0.6 cm. Raceme to 2-5 cm long, 8-12 flowered, calyx incised to more than halfway. Pod tetragonous, straight, appressed grey-pubescent, deflexed, 6-10-seeded, 3 cm long.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of fallow lands, waste lands, scrub and dry forest openings.



Ipomoea carnea

Family: Convolvulaceae

Vern. Name: Lottapeesu, Thooti Kada

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America (introduced to India in early 20th century)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: Throughout the year

Citation: *Ipomoea carnea* Jacq. Enum. Syst. Pl. 13:1760; Gamble 2: 919(645). 1923. ssp. *fistulosa* (Choisy) D. Austin in Taxon 26: 237.1977. *I. fistulosa* Mart. ex Choisy in DC. Prodr. 9: 349.1845.

Description: Large erect shrubs to 3 m tall, branchlets hallow, glaucous with latex. Leaves broadly ovate, 15-20 x 10-12 cm, chartaceous, base cordate to truncate, margin entire, apex acuminate. Flowers rose or pink, funnel form in dichotomous, axillary and terminal cymes. Capsules globose or ovoid, seeds hairy.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of marshy lands and along the edges of tanks and ditches.



Ipomoea eriocarpa

Family: Convolvulaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa, Madagascar

Distribution in India: Throughout

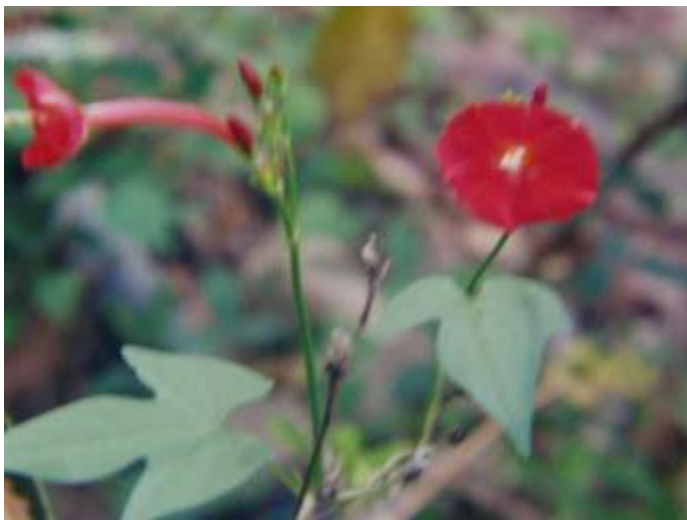
Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – December

Citation: *Ipomoea eriocarpa* R. Br. Prodr. 484.1810; FBI 4: 204.1883. *Convolvulus hispidus* Vahl, Symb. Bot. 3.28.1794. *Ipomoea hispida* (Vahl) Roem. & Schult. Syst. Veg. 4: 238.1819; Gamble 2: 915(643). 1923.

Description: Hispid twiners. Leaves ovate lanceolate, or ovate triangular, 5-10 x 2-5 cm, glabrescent above, pubescent below, acute to acuminate, base cordate, entire. Flowers pink, sessile in dense axillary, capitate clusters. Capsule globose, entirely or partly hairy.

Remarks: Common weed of cultivated fields and degraded forests.



Ipomoea hederifolia

Family: Convolvulaceae

Pop. Name: Star Glory

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Ipomoea hederifolia* L. Syst. Nat. (ed. 10) 925.1759. *Quamoclit phoenicea* (Roxb.) Choisy Mem. Soc. Phys. Geneve 6: 433.1834; Gamble 2: 919(645). 1923. *Ipomoea concinea* auct. FBI 4:199.1883.

Description: An annual, twining, slender, well branched vine to 4 m. Leaves broadly ovate-cordiform, 4-8 x 5-10 cm, chartaceous, glaucous below, base cordate, margin entire or obscurely lobed, apex acuminate. Flowers red, in axillary, lax cymes. Capsule globose.

Remarks: Occasional, along road sides and among bushes in scrub and open forests.



Ipomoea obscura

Family: Convolvulaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – March

Citation: *Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker.-Gawl. In Bot. Reg. 3.t.239.1817. FBI 4: 207.1883; Gamble 2: 516(643). 1923. *Convolvulus obscura* L. Sp. Pl. ed. 2.220.1762.

Description: A slender twining or trailing herbs. Leaves cordate, 2-5 x 2-4.5 cm, glabrescent above, villous below, margin entire, apex acuminate, often with reddish scars. Flowers pale yellow with purple base, axillary, solitary or in sub umbellate cymes. Capsule globose, apically beaked; seeds dark brown, glabrescent.

Remarks: Common in moist places of degraded forests and hedges.



Ipomoea pes-tigridis

Family: Convolvulaceae

Pop. Name: Tiger's foot, Bind Weed

Nativity: Trop. East Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – February

Citation: *Ipomoea pes-tigridis* L. Sp. Pl. 162.1753; FBI 4: 204.1883; Gamble 2: 916 (644). 1923.

Description: An annual spreading or twining hispid herbs up to 2.5 m. Leaves palmately 5-7 lobed, lobes oblanceolate or obovate, base obtuse, margin entire, apex acuminate, 3-5 x 1-2 cm, sericeous on both sides. Flowers pale pink in axillary, long peduncled capitate clusters. Capsules globose, enclosed in calyx; seed pubescent.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of cultivated fields and degraded forests.



Ipomoea quamoclit

Family: Convolvulaceae

Pop. Name: Cypress Vine

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Ipomoea quamoclit* L. Sp. Pl. 159. 1753; FBI 4. 199. 1876. *Quamoclit pinnata* Boj. Hort. Maurit. 224. 1837.

Description: Twining, glabrous annual with weak stems. Leaves alternate, pinnatifid, dissected, segments filiform, numerous. Flowers in cymes, bright red, salver form, 2.5 cm in diam., when expanded. Capsule globose, 0.5 cm across, 4-6-valved. Seeds oblong; septum persistent, white, membranous.

Remarks: Occasional on hedges and runs wild near habitation and gardens.



Ipomoea staphylina

Family: Convolvulaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: October – February

Citation: *Ipomoea staphylina* Roem. & Schult Syst. Veg. 4 : 249. 1819; FBI 4 : 210. 1883; Gamble 2 : 917 (643). 1923.

Description: Perennial, large straggling or climbing, woody, glabrous, shrubs. Leaves ovate, 6-15 x 4-10 cm, base sub-cordate, margin entire, apex acute, glabrescent, petiole up to 7 cm long. Flowers pink, numerous, in lax panicles. Capsule ovoid, glabrous, seeds 4, clothed with long white silky hairs.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed on hedges and among bushes in forests and waste lands.



Lagascea mollis

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Central America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – February

Citation: *Lagascea mollis* Cav. in Anal. Cienc. Nat. 6; 332. 6. 44. 1803; FBI 3:302. 1881; Gamble 2:703 (494). 1921.

Description: Annual, slender erect herbs to 50 cm tall; branches terete, striate, pubescent. Leaves 2-5 x 1-3 cm, elliptic-ovate, rhomboid, base obtuse, margin serrate, apex acuminate. Heads 1-flowered, aggregated into terminal compound capitulum, subtended by leafy bracts, white. Achenes obovate, 3-angled.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of forests, cultivated fields and waste lands.



Lantana camara

Family: Verbenaceae

Pop. Name: Lantana, Wild Sage

Nativity: Trop. America (introduced in India as ornamental shrub during 1809-1810)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: Throughout the year

Citation: *Lantana camara* L. Sp. Pl. 627. 1753; FBI 4: 562. 1885. *L. aculeata* L. Sp.Pl. 627. 1753; Gamble 2: 1087 (761). 1924.

Description: Straggling, armed shrubs, up to 2.5 m tall. Leaves 2-6 x 1.5-3.5 cm, base cordate, margin crenate-serrate, rugose and hispid above, sparsely hispid beneath. Flowers in various colours, pink, white, crimson, orange or rose, in axillary, capitate spikes. Drupes ripe black, 3-4 mm in diam., globose.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of forests, plantations, habitation, waste lands and scrub lands.



Leonotis nepetiifolia

Family: Lamiaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Leonotis nepetiifolia* (L.) R.Br. Prodr. 504.1810; FBI 4: 691.1885; Gamble 2: 1155 (867)1924. *Phlomis nepetifolia* L. Sp. Pl. 586.1753 (*nepetaefolia*).

Description: Annual, erect herbs to 1.5 m tall; branchlets pubescent, quadrangular, grooved. Leaves ovate, 3 -7 x 1.5-5 cm, chartaceous, base truncate to cuneate, margin deeply crenate to serrate, apex acute. Verticils axillary, dense flowered; calyx tubular, posterior both wider and longer, spinescent to 2 cm; corolla orange, tubular, bilipped. Nutlets erect, trigonous; seed oblong.

Remarks: Occasional weed of road sides, fallow lands and degraded forests.



Leucaena leucocephala

Family: Mimosaceae

Pop. Name: Lead tree, Horse Tamarind

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – March

Citation: *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de Wit in Taxon 10:53. 1961. *Leucaena glauca* auct. non (L.) Benth. 1842; FBI 2: 290. Gamble 1:297. 1915.

Description: Trees to 5 m tall. Leaves bipinnate, pinnae 3-8 pairs, 4-12 cm. long; leaflets 12-20 pairs, ovate-oblong. Flowers white or pale green or yellow, in globose heads. Pods 10-20 x 1.5-2.3 cm, brown, flat, glabrous, strap shaped, oblong, straight, flattened.

Remarks: Runs wild in waste lands, scrub lands and fringes of plantations.



Ludwigia adscendens

Family: Onagraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June– December

Citation: *Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) Hara in J. Jap. Bot. 28: 290. 1953. *Jussiaea adscendens* L. Mant. Pl. 69.1767. *J. repens* L. Sp. Pl. 388. 1753, non *Ludwigia repens* Forst. 1771; FBI 2: 587.1879; Gamble 1: 516 (365). 1919.

Description: Prostrate, floating, aquatic herb. Aerophore spongy, fusiform, white in colour; branchlets ribbed. Leaves spiral, oblong-elliptic, 2-3 x 0.6-1.5 cm, chartaceous, glabrous, base attenuate, margin entire, apex obtuse; petals 5, cream, with yellow blotch. Capsule terete, 3.5 x 0.5 cm, thick walled, 10-ribbed, glabrous; seeds 1-seriate.

Remarks: Frequent weed of moist ditches and streams.



Ludwigia octovalvis

Family: Onagraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July– December

Citation: *Ludwigia octovalvis* (Jacq.) Raven, Kew Bull. 15: 476.1962. *Oenothera octovalvis* Jacq. Enum. Syst. Pl. 19.1760. *Jussiaea suffruticosa* L. Sp. Pl. 388.1753; FBI 2: 587.1879; Gamble 1: 516(365). 1919.

Description: Bushy herb. Branchlets densely tomentose. Leaves lanceolate, elliptic-ovate, 2-7 x 0.5-1.5 cm, chartaceous, 10-12 pairs of lateral nerves, base and apex attenuate, margin entire. Petals 4, yellow. Capsule terete, 4 x 0.6 cm, thin-walled, 8-ribbed, pubescent; seeds multiseriate.

Remarks: Occasional in marshy lands, along the edges of tanks and ditches.



Ludwigia perennis

Family: Onagraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – January

Citation: *Ludwigia perennis* L. Sp. Pl. 119.1753. *L. parviflora* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 1: 419.1832; FBI 2: 588.1879; Gamble 1: 517(365).1919.

Description: Herb to 60 cm tall. Leaves lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, 2-7 x 0.5-1.5 cm. chartaceous, base attenuate, margin entire, apex acuminate. Flowers 1 cm across. Petals 4, yellow. Capsule subterete, 0.5-1 cm, thin-walled, 4-ribbed, glabrous; seeds multiseriate.

Remarks: Common weed of marshy lands and rice fields.



Macroptilium atropurpureum

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – February

Citation: *Macroptilium atropurpureum* (DC.) Urban, Symb. Antill. 3: 452. 1928. *Phaseolus atropurpureus* DC. Prodr. 2: 395.1825. Pullaiah *et al.* Fl. Andhra Pradesh 2: 297.1997.

Description: A spreading herb with white silky pubescence. Leaves 3-foliate, leaflets variable, ovate or obovate, rounded at apex, pubescent above, velvety below; prominently looks like butterfly wings. Flowers yellow or dark brownish-purple in axillary racemes. Pod cylindrical, covered with stellate, silvery hairs, torulose.

Remarks: Occasional weed in grassy localities among bushes.



Macropodium lathyroides

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Central America and West Indies

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – February

Citation: *Macropodium lathyroides* (L.) Urban var. *semierectum* (L.) Urban, Symb. Antill. 9. 457. 1928. *Phaseolus semierectus* L. Mant. Pl. 100. 1707; FBI 2: 201. 1876; Gamble 1: 362(255). 1918

Description: Annual, erect herbaceous undershrubs; branches clothed with long deflexed deciduous hairs. Leaves 3-foliolate, leaflets elliptic-lanceolate, oblong-lanceolate, about 5 x 2 cm, base cuneate, entire, apex acute. Flowers purple in spicate, many flowered racemes. Pod linear, 8-10 cm long, cylindric, sharply beaked, silvery - pubescent when young, glabrous when mature; seeds about 20, dark brown.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of disturbed places and scrub.



Malachra capitata

Family: Malvaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – January

Citation: *Malachra capitata* (L.) L. Syst. Nat. ed. 12. 2: 458. 1767; FBI 1: 329. 1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 102(73). 1915. *Sida capitata* L. Sp. Pl. 685. 1753.

Description: Undershrub; branchlets stellate-tomentose, bristly. Leaves orbicular or ovate, palmately 3 or 5-lobed or angled, 2.5-7 x 4-6 cm, 7-nerved at base, hairy, cordate, crenate, obtuse. Cymes axillary; epicalyx segments 3, linear; petals yellowish. Schizocarp globose, 8 mm, wrinkled not exceeding calyx; seeds ovoid, 1.5 mm, pubescent.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of marshy lands and cultivated fields.



Malvastrum coromandelianum

Family: Malvaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America (introduced in India during 19th century)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Malvastrum coromandelianum* (L.) Garcke in Bonplandia 5: 295. 1857; Gamble 1:88 (64). 1915. *Malva coromandeliana* L. Sp. Pl. 687. 1753. *Malvastrum tricuspidatum* (R. Br.) Gray, Pl. Wight, 1: 16. 1852; FBI 1: 321. 1875.

Description: Woody herb to 30 cm tall. Leaves entire, ovate-lanceolate or deltoid, 2-5 x 1.5-3 cm, chartaceous, 5-nerved at base, truncate-obtuse, crenate-serrate, acute. Epicalyx segments 3, shorter than calyx. Petals pale yellow. Schizocarp 3 x 6 mm, not exceeding calyx. Seed 1 per mericarp, reniform, compressed.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of cultivated fields, forest openings and habitation.



Martynia annua

Family: Pedaliaceae

Pop. Name: Tiger Claw

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Martynia annua* (Houstoun in Martyn) L. Sp. Pl. 618. 1753; Gamble 2: 1003(705). 1924. *M. diandra* Gloxin, Observ. Bot. 14.t. 1. 1785; FBI 4: 386. 1884.

Description: Undershrub to 1 m tall. Stem purplish green, glandular-hairy, sticky. Leaves opposite, cordiform, 5-18 x 6-23 cm, chartaceous, palmately 5-nerved from base, cordate, margin sinuate, apex, acute. Racemes 7-12 flowered, at the bifurcations of branches. Corolla purple with yellow throat. Drupe ovoid with 2 apical, curved beaks dehiscing into 2-valves, 3 x 1.7 cm.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of cultivated fields, scrub lands and forest openings.



Mecardonia procumbens

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. North America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Mecardonia procumbens* (Mill.) Small Fl. South-East U.S. 1065. 1913. *Erinus procumbens* Mill. Gard. Dict. ed. 8. 1768.

Description: Annual, procumbent, glabrous herb to 20 cm tall, turning black or blackish brown on drying, rooting at lower nodes; stem quadrangular. Leaves opposite, unequal in size, up to 1.7x 1.1 cm, ovate, crenate-serrate, gland dotted beneath, subsessile, base cuneate, apex rounded or obtuse. Flowers axillary, solitary, yellow, calyx divided to the base. Capsule cylindric; seeds minute and numerous.

Remarks: Ready colonizer; Occasional weed in gardens, disturbed places of moist deciduous forests and sandy soils along river beds.



Melilotus alba

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Europe

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Melilotus alba* Desv. in Lam. Encycl. 4: 63.1796; FBI 2: 89.1876; Gamble 1:303 (215).1918.

Description: Annual, erect herbs, upto 50 cm tall. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate, leaflets obovate, oblong, 1.5-2 x 0.5-0.8 cm, base cuneate, margin serrate, apex mucronate. Flowers white, in axillary racemes. Pod 0.4 cm across, obscurely reticulate, 2-seeded.

Remarks: Common winter season weed of moist crop fields.



Melochia corchorifolia

Family: Sterculiaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Melochia corchorifolia* L. Sp. Pl. 675.1753; FBI 1: 374.1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 110(79).1915.

Description: Erect or prostrate herb; branchlets reddish, tomentose. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, shallowly 3-lobed, 1.5-5 x 0.5-2.5 cm, chartaceous, basally 3-5 nerved, glabrous, obtuse, serrate, acute. Cymes terminal, capitate, subsessile; flowers pink. Capsules subglobose, loculicidally 5-valved; seed 1 per cell, ovoid, angular, 2 mm.

Remarks: Common weed of moist places.



Merremia aegyptia

Family: Convolvulaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – March

Citation: *Merremia aegyptia* (L.) Urban. Symb. Antill. 4: 505. 1910; Gamble 2: 928(652). 1923. *Ipomoea aegyptia* L. Sp. Pl. 162. 1753. *Ipomoea pentaphylla* Jacq. Collectanea 2: 297. 1788; FBI 4: 202. 1883.

Description: Annual, prostrate or twining herb. Branchlets villous. Leaves palmately compound, leaflets 5, obovate, 3-5 x 0.5-1 cm, broadest in the middle, base acute, margin entire, apex acuminate, pubescent, appressed long hairy. Flowers white, solitary, axillary. Capsule globose, silky.

Remarks: Occasional weed in forest clearings, scrub lands and waste lands.



Mikania micrantha

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: Mile-a-minute

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: December - April

Citation: *Mikania micrantha* Kunth, F. W. H. A. von Humboldt et al., Nov. gen. sp. 4:105[folio]. 1818; 4:134[quarto]. 1820. *Mikania cordata* (Burm. f.) B. L. Rob. Contr. Gray Herb. 104:65. 1934. *Mikania scandens* (L.) Willd. Sp. Pl. 3(3): 1743. 1803.

Description: A branched, slender-stemmed perennial vine. Leaves are heart-shaped or triangular with margins coarsely dentate, crenate, or subentire an acute tip and a broad base, 4-13 cm long. Flowers, each 3-5 mm long, are arranged in dense terminal or axillary corymbs, greenish-white. Flowers in heads, in corymbose panicles; corolla white. Achene linear-oblong, black, five-angled; pappus of 32 to 38 soft white bristles. Seed black, five-angled and about 2 mm long.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional along fringes of moist forests, river banks, railway tracks, road sides and in gardens.



Mimosa pigra

Family: Mimosaceae

Pop. Name: Black Mimosa

Nativity: Trop. North America

Distribution in India: Himalaya, Western Ghats

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Mimosa pigra* L. Sp. Pl. 518. 1753; Verdcourt in Taxon 38:522-523. 1989.

Description: Prickly mimosoid shrub to 3 m tall; stem has 5 ridges from which spines and bristles arise. Leaves about 20 cm long and pinnate; 7-16 pairs pinnae, each pinna composed of 25-40 linear pinnules. Petioles and leaves spiny. Leaves are not as sensitive to physical stimulation as *Mimosa pudica*. Flowers in globose heads. Pods compressed, 5-10 x ca. 2 cm, hispid.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. It invades water courses and seasonally flooded wetlands.



Mimosa pudica

Family: Mimosaceae

Pop. Name: Touch-Me-Not, Sleeping Grass

Nativity: Brazil (introduced in India during 16th century)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July - February

Citation: *Mimosa pudica* L. Sp. Pl. 518. 1753; FBI 2: 201.1878; Gamble 1: 421(298). 1919.

Description: Prickly, suffrutescent herbs; branches prostrate, spreading. Pinnae 1-2 subdigitate pairs, to 4 cm long. Leaflets 15-20 pairs, linear, elliptic-oblong, overlapping, base truncate, margin ciliate, acute at apex, hispid. Flowers pale pink. Pods 2-5 jointed, oblong, 2-4 cm; margins distinctly bristly.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of cultivated fields, scrub lands and degraded forests.



Mirabilis jalapa

Family: Nyctaginaceae

Pop. Name: 4 'O' clock plant.

Nativity: Peru

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Mirabilis jalapa* L. Sp. Pl. 177. 1753.

Description: An erect, much branched herb or undershrub. Leaves 5-10 x 3-6 cm, ovate, truncate or cordate, entire. Flowers 6 x 4 cm, white, red, yellow or green, showy in a calyx-like involucre. Corolla tube elongated. Fruits leathery.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Runs wild in gardens and near habitation.



Monochoria vaginalis

Family: Pontederiaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Monochoria vaginalis* (Burm.f.) C. Presl. Rel. Haenk. 1: 128. 1827; FBI 6:363. 1892; Fischer in Gamble 3: 1529(1068). 1928. *Pontedera vaginalis* Burm.f. Fl. India 80.1768.

Description: Rooted, aquatic herb, 20-70 cm; root stock thick, erect. Leaves ovate, 3-9 x 1.5-5cm, thin-coriaceous, 9-11 nerved, glabrous, obscurely lobed, cordate, entire, caudate-acuminate. Raceme solitary, terminal to 7 cm, deflexed, 6-10-flowered. Flowers regular, to 2 cm across. Perianth lobes deep blue. Capsule oblong, 1x0.8 cm, glabrous; seeds many, oblong. 10-ribbed.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of ditches and still waters.



Nicotiana plumbaginifolia

Family: Solanaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: December - April

Citation: *Nicotiana plumbaginifolia* Viv. Elench. Pl. Hort. Bot. 26.t. 15. 1802; FBI 4: 242. 1883.

Description: Erect viscid, annual herbs to 75 cm tall. Stems simple or branched from the base, glandular-hairy. Basal leaves in a rosette, obovate, 5-15 cm. cauline ones sessile, obovate, smaller, passing into bracts, all leaves undulate-crispy, glandular. Flowers in cymose, leafy panicles. Corolla rosy or greenish white, glandular hairy outside, 2.5-3 cm long. Fruit 0.8-1 cm long. Seeds rugose.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional along river banks, railway tracks, road sides and in gardens.



Ocimum americanum

Family: Lamiaceae

Pop. Name: Hoary Basil

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

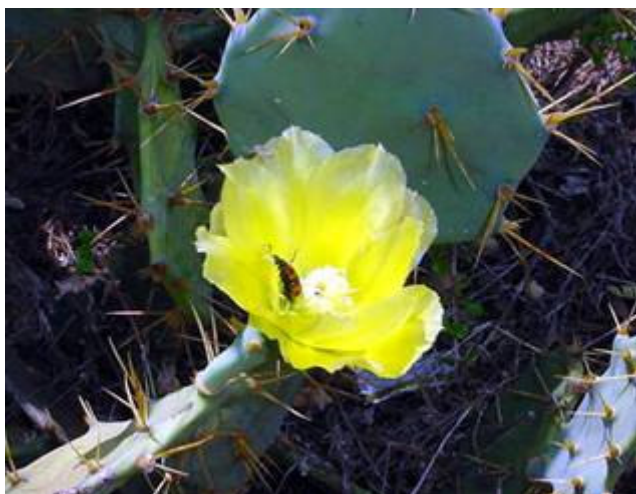
Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Ocimum americanum* L. Cent. Pl. 1: 15. 1755. *O. canum* Sims in Curtis, Bot. Mag. t. 2452; 1823; FBI 4: 607.1885; Gamble 2:1111(777).1924.

Description: Erect, aromatic herbs to 50 cm tall; branchlets terete to sub 4-angular. Leaves elliptic-oblong, 1-3.5 x 0.5-2 cm, base truncate, margin sparingly serrate, apex acute. Inflorescence to 20 cm; calyx villous within; corolla white; calyx not much enlarged in fruit. Pedicel recurved, shorter than calyx. Nutlets oblong, black, pitted.

Remarks: Common weed of waste lands and scrub lands.



Opuntia stricta

Family: Cactaceae

Pop. Name: Prickly Pear, Snake Hood Fig

Nativity: Trop. America (introduced before 1786)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: April – December

Citation: *Opuntia stricta* (Haw.) Haw. Syn. Pl. Succ. 191. 1812. var. *dillenii* (Ker-Gawler) L. Benson. Cact. Succ. J. (Los Angeles) 41: 126. 1969. *Cactus strictus* Haw. Misc. Nat. 188. 1803. *Opuntia dillenii* (Ker-Gawler) Haw. Suppl. Pl. Succ. 79. 1819; FBI 2: 657. 1879. Gamble 1: 548(387). 1919.

Description: Shrub to 2.5 m tall; areoles raised, densely elongate-bristly, glochidiate; Spines 5-7 per areole, 0.7-4.5 cm, yellow. Leaves deciduous. Flowers to 5 cm across. Perianth yellow. Berry obovoid, purple when ripe; seeds many.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional in thorny scrub and degraded lands.



Oxalis corniculata

Family: Oxalidaceae

Pop. Name: Indian Sorrel

Nativity: Europe (introduced in India before 1814)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Oxalis corniculata* L. Sp. Pl. 435.1753; FBI 1: 436.1874; Dunn in Gamble 1:132(94). 1915.

Description: Diffuse herb, rooting at lower nodes. Leaves digitately 3-foliate; leaflets obcordate, 0.4-1.5 x 0.7-1.7 cm, chartaceous, pilose, cuneate, entire, emarginate. Flowers yellow in axillary umbels. Capsule 1-2 x 0.3 cm, oblong, 5-angled, tipped with persistent style.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common winter season weed.



Parthenium hysterophorus

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: Congress grass, Parthenium

Nativity: Trop. North America (recorded in India in the year 1956)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – February

Citation: *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. Sp. Pl. 988. 1753. Pullaiah & Moulali, Fl. Andhra Pradesh 2: 533. 1997.

Description: Annual, erect herbs to 1.5 m tall; branches angular, grooved, hairy. Leaves alternate, pinnatifid, 2-15 x 0.5-7 cm, pinnules opposite, oblong-lanceolate, base decurrent, apex acute. Heads white, bisexual, in terminal panicles about 20 cm long, heterogamous, female floret ligulate, anthers translucent. Achenes obovoid, flattened, dorsally compressed.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of cultivated fields, forests, overgrazed pastures, waste lands and gardens.



Passiflora foetida

Family: Passifloraceae

Pop. Name: Love-in-a-mist, Stinking Passion-flower

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Passiflora foetida* L. Sp. Pl. 959.1753; Gamble 1: 524 (370).1919.

Description: Climbing herbs, tendrils simple, branchlets densely hispid. Leaves 3-6 x 3.5-8 cm, spiral, widely ovate, 3-lobed, rarely 5-lobed, cordate at base; glandular pubescent, subentire to ciliate, apex acute; petiole to 1.5 cm; Flowers to 4 cm across, axillary, often solitary; peduncle 3-4 cm; bracts and bracteoles 2 – 3 cm, deeply pinnatisect, glandular-pubescent. Berry 4 x 3 cm, subglobose; orange when ripe.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of forest fringes and bunds of cultivated fields.



Pedalium murex

Family: Pedaliaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Pedalium murex* L. Syst. Nat. (ed.10) 1123. 1759; FBI 4:386. 1884; Gamble 2: 1001 (704). 1924.

Description: Erect, much branched herb to 30 cm tall. Leaves spiral or opposite with unequal leaves, repand-undulate, 2.5-6 x 2-5 cm, subsucculent, penninerved, base truncate, apex emarginate. Flowers solitary, axillary, ebracteate. Corolla yellow. Drupe indehiscent, 1.5 x 0.8 cm, apex conical, lower half 4-gonous, spiny along the angles.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of waste lands, road sides and cultivated fields.



Pennisetum purpureum

Family: Poaceae

Pop. Name: Elephant Grass, Napier Grass

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Pennisetum purpureum* Schum. Beskr. Guin. Pl. 44. 1827.

Description: A perennial, stoloniferous grass to 1 m tall. Culms decumbent; nodes bearded. Leaves linear, 10-30 x 0.7-1 cm, scattered-pilose, base rounded, margin scaberulous, apex acuminate. Panicles to 15 cm. Spike like raceme up to 18 cm long, solitary, cylindric, yellowish or purplish. Spikelets subterete, to 6 mm. Caryopsis ovoid.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of grasslands, scrub lands and degraded forests.



Peperomia pellucida

Family: Piperaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July– December

Citation: *Peperomia pellucida* (L.) Kunth, Nov. Gen. Sp. 1:64.1816; Gamble 2: 847.1957 (rep.ed.). Reddy & Raju in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 26: 195-198. 2002. *Piper pellucidum* L. Sp. Pl. 30.1973.

Description: Annual, succulent, delicate, glabrous herbs with weak erect stems, 6-15 cm high. Leaves spiral, rarely opposite, greenish above, whitish beneath, pellucid, broadly ovate, deltoid, distinctly 5-nerved, 1-2.5 cm wide and long, slightly cordate, entire, subacute. Inflorescence leaf opposed, terminal; spike to 5 cm long. Flowers distant, sunk in the rachis; perianth absent. Fruit 0.8 mm long, indehiscent nutlet. Seeds minute.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common winter season weed in gardens and on moist rocks near by habitation.



Peristrophe paniculata

Family: Acanthaceae

Pop. Name:

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Peristrophe paniculata* (Forssk.) Brummitt in Kew Bull. 38. 451. 1983. *Dianthera paniculata* Forssk. Fl. Aeg. –Arab. 7. 1775. *Peristrophe bicalyculata* (Retz.) Nees in Wall. Pl. As. Rar. 3: 113. 1832; FBI 4:554. 1885; Gamble 2: 1084(759). 1924.

Description: Erect herb to 1 m. Leaves elliptic to lanceolate, 4-6 x 2-3 cm, base rounded to acute, apex gradually acute to acuminate. Upper leaves remote, subtending the cymes. Panicles of lax cymes divaricate, terminal or axillary. Corolla pink. Capsule ellipsoid, 1.2 x 3 mm, hairy, acuminate. Seeds 4, orbicular.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of cultivated fields and degraded forests.



Phyllanthus tenellus

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Mascarene Islands

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Phyllanthus tenellus* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 3:668.1832. Webster in Brittonia 22: 63.1970. Mitra in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 27: 154 (1985). 1986.

Description: Annual herbs to 80 cm high. Stem smooth, subterete with spirally arranged cataphylls. Leaf blades membranous, elliptic to obovate, acute or obtuse at apex, acute to rounded at base, 6-2.5 x 4-11 mm, pale below. Cymules axillary on lateral branchlets. Calyx lobes 5, ovate. Capsules greenish, 1.7-1.9 mm broad; seeds pale brown, densely papillose.

Remarks: Occasional, weed of gardens.



Physalis angulata

Family: Solanaceae

Pop. Name: Goose Berry

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – January

Citation: *Physalis angulata* L. Spl. Pl. 183.1753. *P. longifolia* auct. Pl. (non Nutt. 1837) Santap. et al. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 58:551.1961; Gamble 2: 939 (659)1923. Reddy et al. in *J. Econ. Tax. Bot.* 23: 709-710. 1999.

Description: Erect, widely branched, annual herbs to 75 cm tall. Stems angular-ribbed, glabrous, Leaves ovate-elliptic, base rounded or cuneate, oblique, long acuminate, glabrous, sinuate-dentate to incised, 3-8 x 2-4 cm. Flowers solitary, terminal, axillary 1-1.5 cm long, Corolla yellow with 5 small, brown spots inside, 0.8-1 cm long; anthers violet or blue. Fruit greenish yellow, 1-1.5 cm across. Fruiting calyx 4 cm long, 5-angled, glabrous.

Remarks: Common weed of cultivated fields, waste lands and forest fringes.



Physalis pruinosa

Family: Solanaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Delhi, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Physalis pruinosa* L., Water fall, Rhodora 60:140.1958; Rydberg, Torrey Bot. Cl. 4: 297-374.1896. Gleason, New Britt. & Brown III. Fl. N.E.U.S. & Canada 3:197.1963.

Description: Erect, viscid, glandular-villous annual - perennial herbs. Stems angular-ribbed, glandular-pubescent. Leaves large, 4 - 9 x 3 - 6 cm, ovate-elliptic, base cuneate, rounded or subcordate or unequal, margin variable, subentire to sinuate dentate with prolonged acuminations, apex acute or acuminate, appressed hairy. Calyx segments 0.6 cm long, divided less than half way down, glandular hairy; lobes ovate-triangular, acuminate. Corolla campanulate-rotate, white, 1 cm long; anthers yellow. Fruiting calyx 5-angular, 2-2.5 cm long.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional along railway tracks, road sides and cultivated fields.



Pilea microphylla

Family: Urticaceae

Pop. Name: Gun Powder plant

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Pilea microphylla* (L.) Liebm. in Kongel. Danske Vidensk. Selsk. Naturvidensk. Math. Afg. (ser.2) 5(2): 296.1851; FBI 5: 551.1888; Fischer in Gamble, 3: 1379(965).1928. Reddy & Raju in *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* 26: 195-198. 2002. *Parietaria microphylla* L. Syst. Nat. ed.10,1308.1759.

Description: Diffuse herb to 15 cm. Leaves elliptic ovate to 4 x 2 mm, subsucculent, 1-nerved, acute, entire, apex subacute to obtuse. Flowers in stalked, umbellate clusters. Male tepals 4, free, female tepals connate. Achenes ellipsoid, 1 mm, 1-locular.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of gardens and often as a pot weed.



Pistia stratiotes

Family: Araceae

Pop. Name: Tropical Duck Weed, Water Lettuce

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Vegetative

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Pistia stratiotes* L. Sp. Pl. 963.1753; FBI 6: 497.1893; Fischer in Gamble 3: 1573 (1097).1931.

Description: Aquatic, floating, stoloniferous herbs. Leaves 3-12 x 1-2 cm, veins 5-9, prominent on lower surface, bright silvery green in colour, highly variable in size, white-pubescent. Inflorescence with a short peduncle, tomentose. Spathe 7-10 x 5 mm, light yellowish green. Flowers white.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common in still or slow floating waters.



Portulaca oleracea

Family: Portulacaceae

Pop. Name: Purslane

Nativity: Trop. Central America (introduced to India before 1845)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Portulaca oleracea* L. Sp. Pl. 445. 1753; FBI 1: 246. 1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 66 (47). 1915.

Description: Prostrate herb; branchlets green or purplish, succulent. Leaves spiral or subopposite, obovate to spatulate, 1-2 x 0.4-1.6 cm, fleshy, glabrous, base attenuate, entire, apex obtuse. Flowers to 1 cm across, yellow, 3-6 in a terminal cluster, rarely solitary. Capsule ovoid, 6-8 mm.

Remarks: Introduced and cultivated as a leafy vegetable. Weed of moist fields and gardens.



Portulaca quadrifida

Family: Portulacaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Portulaca quadrifida* L. Syst. Nat. ed. 12. 328. 1866 & Mant. Pl. 1: 73. 1767; FBI 1: 247. 1874; Dunn in Gamble. 1. 66(47). 1915.

Description: Prostrate herb; branchlets creeping, fluffy at nodes, pinkish. Leaves decussate, elliptic or ovate-lanceolate, 4-8 x 1-3 mm, subsucculent, glabrous, base cuneate, margin entire, apex acute. Flowers 1 cm across, terminal, solitary; foliar involucres ca.4. Petals. yellow. Capsule oblong, 3.5-4.5 mm; seeds ca.10, 0.8-1 mm.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common in moist places of gardens and cultivated fields.



Prosopis juliflora

Family: Mimosaceae

Pop. Name: Mesquite

Nativity: Mexico (introduced in India before 1877)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: September - March

Citation: *Prosopis juliflora* (Sw.) DC. Prodr. 2:447. 1825. *Mimosa juliflora* Swartz. Prodr. 85. 1788. *Prosopis chilensis* (Molina) Stuntz in USDA Bur. Pl. Industr. Invent. Seeds 31: 1914.

Description: Armed bushy shrubs or trees. Stipular spines to 1 cm. Pinnae 1-3 pairs. Leaflets 15-20 pairs, oblong, obtuse to 1.5 x 0.3 cm. Spikes 1- few fascicled. Flowers cream. Petals densely tomentose. Pod pale yellow, straight or curved, glabrous, 22 x 1 cm long, sutures parallel or slightly constricted.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of waste lands, scrub lands and degraded forests.



Rhynchelytrum repens

Family: Poaceae

Pop. Name: Red Natal Grass

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Rhynchelytrum repens* (Willd.) C.E. Hubb. Bull. Misc. Inform. 1934: 110. 1934. *Saccharum repens* Willd. Sp. Pl. 1: 322.1797.

Description: An annual, tufted grass up to 1 m tall; nodes pubescent. Leaf sheaths 2-4 cm long, tuberculately pilose. Leaves oblong, narrow-lanceolate, 5-20 x 0.3-0.5 cm, base truncate, apex acuminate. Panicles up to 15 cm, contracted. Spikelets 2-flowered, ovoid, to 8 mm, pink to purple, long-villous. Caryopsis obovoid.

Remarks: Occasional weed of disturbed places.



Rorippa dubia

Family: Brassicaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Northern India, Andhra Pradesh

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Rorippa dubia* (Pers.) Hara in *J. Jap. Bot.* 30: 196. 1955. *Sisymbrium dubium* Pers. Syn. Pl. 2: 199. 1806. Reddy et al. in *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* 24: 287-288. 2000.

Description: Annual, erect herbs to 20 cm tall. Basal leaves many, crowded, long petioled, simple to lyrate, with 1-2-basal segments on either side; upper leaves subsessile, obovate-oblongate, entire or irregularly serrate-dentate. Racemes greenish-yellow to 7 cm long. Sepals erect, elliptic, 2.5 mm long. Petals absent. Stamens yellow, stigma subsessile. Siliqua erect, thin, cylindrical, 1.6-3.5 cm long.

Remarks: Recent Introduction to the southern India. Occasional in moist shady places of river banks and edges of tanks.



Ruellia tuberosa

Family: Acanthaceae

Pop. Name: Menow Weed

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Ruellia tuberosa* L. Sp.Pl. 635. 1753; Gamble. 2: 1017 (714). 1924.

Description: An erect herb upto 50 cm tall. Tender parts hispid, nodes often purplish. Leaves 5-9 x 2-4 cm, obovate to lanceolate, base cuneate to attenuate, apex obtuse to subacute. Flowers solitary or in 3-flowered cymes, terminal and axillary, blue to violetish. Capsule oblong, 2.5 x 0.4 cm, glabrous or scabrous, minutely beaked above.

Remarks: Common weed of gardens and disturbed places.



Saccharum spontaneum

Family: Poaceae

Pop. Name: Townsend' grass

Nativity: Trop. W. Asia

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Saccharum spontaneum* L. Mant. Pl. 183. 1771; FBI 7: 118. 1896. Fischer in Gamble 3: 1709(1185). 1934.

Description: A perennial, elegant, erect, tufted grass to 2 m tall; nodes waxy. Leaf sheaths 5-20 cm long, glabrous. Leaves 30-60 x 0.3-0.6 cm, convolute, glabrous, base narrowed, margin scaberulous, apex acuminate, midrib prominent. Panicles 20-50 cm, silky-white, branches semiverticillate, 6-10. Spikelet to 4 mm.

Remarks: Very common along streams and banks of rivers.



Salvinia molesta

Family: Salviniaceae

Pop. Name: Giant Salvinia, Kariba weed

Nativity: South Eastern Brazil (reported in India during 1950)

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Vegetative

Fl & Fr: July – December

Citation: *Salvinia molesta* D. S. Mitch. Brit. Fern. Gaz. 10:251. 1972.

Description: Floating, rootless aquatic fern. Stems horizontal, that float just below the water surface, and produce at each node, a pair of floating or emergent leaves. Floating and emergent leaves are green in color and ovate to oblong. Plants bear a third leaf that is brown, highly divided and dangles underwater. Submerged leaves are commonly mistaken as roots. Upper surfaces of green leaves are covered with rows of white, bristly hairs.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. One of the world's most noxious aquatic weed. Found in quiet water of lakes and ponds, ditches; slow flowing streams, backwater swamps, marshes and rice fields.



Scoparia dulcis

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – December

Citation: *Scoparia dulcis* L. Sp. Pl. 116.1753. FBI 4: 289.1884; Gamble 2: 964(678). 1924.

Description: Annual, erect herbs to 30 cm tall. Leaves decussate to whorled, simple, 1-3.5 x 0.5-1.5 cm, penninerved, base cuneate, margin serrate, apex acute. Flowers axillary, 1 or 2; bracts and bracteoles absent. Calyx lobes 4, free, oblong, imbricate. Corolla white. Capsule ellipsoid, globose, 3.5 x 3 mm, septicidal.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of cultivated fields, forests and along road sides.



Sesbania bispinosa

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: Dhencha

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Sesbania bispinosa* (Jacq.) Wight in U.S.D.A. Bur. Pl. Industr. Bull. No.137. 15.1909. *Aeschynomene bispinosa* Jacq. Icon. Pl. Rar. 3:13.t. 564. 1792. *Sesbania aculeata* (Willd.) Poiret in Lam. Encycl. 7: 128. 1806. *nom.illegit*; FBI 2:114. 1876; Gamble 1: 323(228).1918.

Description: Shrubs to 3 m. Leaves to 25 cm. Leaflets 40-50 pairs, oblong, 1-2 x 0.4 cm. chartaceous, base cuneate, margin entire, apex obtuse; rachis and petiole prickled. Corolla yellow brown, with blackish dots. Pods subterete > 30 cm, torulose, margins not grooved. Seeds ca. 40.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of moist cultivated fields.



Sida acuta

Family: Malvaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – December

Citation: *Sida acuta* Burm.f. Fl. Indica 147. 1768; Dunn in Gamble 1: 90(64). 1915. *S. carpinifolia* auct. non. L. Mast. in FBI 1: 323. 1874.

Description: Erect herbs. Leaves oblong-lanceolate or elliptic, 1-8 x 0.4-2 cm, basally 3-5 nerved, serrate, apex acute. Stipules of each pair different. Flowers solitary or 2-5 in clusters. Schizocarp 5 mm, ovoid, acute, wrinkled, with 6-9 mericarps.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Abundant along railway tracks, road sides and in degraded forests.



Solanum americanum

Family: Solanaceae

Pop. Name: Night Shade

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Solanum americanum* Miller, Gard. Dict. Ed. 8 no. 5.1768; Hepper in Dassan & Fosb. 6: 368.1987. *S. nigrum* Sp. Pl. 186.1753; FBI 4: 229.1883; Gamble 2: 936(657). 1923.

Description: An annual, erect herb. Leaves ovate, ovate oblong, with a cuneate base, entire sinuate to dentate, glabrous. Flowers nodding, in umbelliform, extra axillary inflorescences, corolla white or blue, 3 cm across. Berry globose, glabrous, purplish red when ripe, seeds many, ovate-reniform.

Remarks: Occasional weed of cultivated fields and often found in forest fringes.



Solanum seaforthianum

Family: Solanaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Brazil

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Solanum seaforthianum* Andrews Bot. Repos. 8 : t. 504. 1808.

Description: A glabrous, unarmed climber. Leaves pinnately lobed (divided almost to the base so that the lobes appear as leaflets), lobes ovate-obovate, 2-5 x 1-2 cm, base oblique, margin decurrent, apex acute, glabrous. Flowers violet, panicles leaf-opposed or terminal. Berry globose, red when ripe.

Remarks: Introduced as an ornamental. Aggressive colonizer. Occasional in degraded forests.



Solanum torvum

Family: Solanaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: West Indies

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: October – March

Citation: *Solanum torvum* Sw. Nov. Gen. Sp. 47. 1788; FBI 4: 234. 1883; Gamble 2: 937(658). 1923.

Description: An armed, erect shrub to 2.5 m tall; stem stellate-pubescent, prickles short with stout base; petiole to 5 cm. Leaves variable in shape, often ovate, shallowly lobed, 8-15 x 6-12 cm, base unequally cordate. Flowers white, many in dense cymes, lateral. Berry 1 cm across, yellowish when ripe, glabrous, seated in persistent calyx; seeds sub-reniform, brown.

Remarks: Frequently found in outskirts of forests and along road sides.



Solanum viarum

Family: Solanaceae

Pop. Name: Soda Apple

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – February

Citation: *Solanum viarum* Dunal in de Candolle, Prodr. 13(1): 240. 1852.

Description: Prickly perennial herbs up to 1m tall. Leaves ovate or elliptic, margin sinuate or subpinnatifid, prickly. Flowers white, in cymes. Calyx persistent, not enclosing fruits. Fruit a berry with 180 to 420 seeds. Seeds lenticular, outline obovate or broadly elliptic to nearly round, ca. 2-2.8 mm long, 1.8-2.1 mm wide, 0.5-0.8 mm thick

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed along road sides and outskirts of forests.



Sonchus asper

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Mediterranean region

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – February

Citation: *Sonchus asper* Hill, Herb. Brit. 5. 1769. Cooke Fl. Bombay 120. 1904.

Description: Annual erect herbs to 1 m tall. Stem branched. Leaves sessile, elliptic-oblong, entire or runcinate or pinnatifid, base amplexicaul with rounded auricles, undulate, spinous-dentate or simply dentate. Heads crowded in an irregular umbel. Flowers yellow. Pappus copious, very slender, white. Achenes much compressed, longitudinally striate.

Remarks: Occasional weed of moist places and waste lands.



Sonchus oleraceus

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Mediterranean region

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Sonchus oleraceus* L. Sp.Pl. 794. 1753; FBI 3: 414. 1881; Gamble 2: 732 (514). 1921.

Description: Annual, erect herbs to 75 cm tall, stem fistular. Leaves upper ones lanceolate, radical ones once or twice lobed, leaf auricles acute, spreading, lateral lobe lanceolate, terminal lobes hastate-triangular, 7-14 x 1-7 cm, base amplexicaul, apex acuminate. Heads in terminal umbellate cymes, yellow, homogamous. Achenes obovoid, 4-ribbed.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of cultivated fields, wet lands and along road sides.



Spermacoce hispida

Family: Rubiaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Spermacoce hispida* L. Sp. Pl. 102. 1753; FBI 3: 200. 1881. *Borreria hispida* (L.) Schum. in Engler & Prantl Pflanzenfam. IV. 4: 144. 1891, auct. non Schumann 1888; Gamble 2: 654 (461). 1921.

Description: Hispid, diffuse herb to 60 cm. Stems obscurely four angled. Leaves decussate, obovate or elliptic-ovate, 1-3 x 0.5-1.5 cm, lateral nerves 4 pairs, truncate, entire, acute, apiculate. Flowers in axillary fascicles, pinkish white. Capsule globose, 6 x 4 mm. Seeds broadly hispid, black.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of degraded forests, scrub and cultivated fields



Spilanthes radicans

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name:-

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Spilanthes radicans* Jacq. Collect. Bot. Chem. Hist. Nat. 11: 1714-1804; Sivarajan & Mathew in Anc. Sci. life 3: 169. 1984.

Description: Erect herbs; stems terete, minutely pubescent. Leaves ovate, base obtuse, margin minutely serrate, ca. 7 x 4 cm, apex acute. Heads white, discoid, axillary, 8 mm across. Peduncles 4-7 cm long. Achenes dimorphic, marginal ones trigonous, others brownish-black. Pappus of 2 subequal bristles.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of gardens and occasionally found in cultivated fields and forest fringes.



Stachytarpheta jamaicensis

Family: Verbenaceae

Pop. Name: Blue Rats' tail

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: Mainly in rainy season

Citation: *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis* (L.) Vahl, Enum. Pl. 1: 206. 1804. *Verbena jamaicensis* L. Sp. Pl. 19. 1753. *Stachytarpheta indica* var. *jamaicensis* (L.) Trimen, Cat. Pl. Ceylon 68: 1885; Gamble 2: 1090 (763). 1924; *Stachytarpheta indica* auct. non (L.) Vahl 1804; FBI 4: 564. 1885, *p.p.*.

Description: A tall erect herb to 1 m tall; branchlets glabrescent. Leaves obovate-elliptic, 5-10 x 2-3.5 cm, base narrowed in to a short petiole, margin coarsely serrate or crenate, apex obtuse or acute. Flowers blue, in long slender terminal spikes to 30 cm; corolla salver shaped. Fruit 3-4 mm long, oblong, ribbed.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of gardens and disturbed lands.



Stachytarpheta urticaefolia

Family: Verbenaceae

Pop. Name: Snake weed, Vervain

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: Throughout the year

Citation: *Stachytarpheta urticaefolia* (Salisb.) Sims in Bot. Mag. t. 1848. 1816 (*urticaefolia*). *Cymburus urticaefolius* Salisb. Parad. Land.t. 53. 1806. *Stachytarpheta indica* auct. non (L.) Vahl 1804; FBI 4: 564. 1885, P.P.; Gamble 2: 1090 (763). 1924.

Description: A tall herb to 1 m tall; dichotomously branched, nearly glabrous. Leaves ovate-elliptic, 3-7 x 2-3 cm, coarsely serrate, glabrous. Flowers white or light blue-violet, in spikes which sometimes reach to 30 cm in length. Fruit 3-4 mm long, oblong, ribbed.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of gardens and open moist deciduous forests.



Stylosanthes hamata

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: Stylo Grass, Caribbean stylo

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Peninsular India

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – January

Citation: *Stylosanthes hamata* (L.) Taub. Verh. Bot. Vereins Prov. Brandenburg 32:22. 1890.

Description: A diffuse, annual to short-lived perennial with semi-erect growth habit. Leaves trifoliate with long, narrow, shiny leaflets, the latter 4.5 to 5.3 times as long as they are wide. Inflorescence an oblong spike, greater than 20 mm long, with 8 to 14 small yellow flowers on a long stem. Pod have two articulations. Seeds medium to dark brown, 2 to 2.5 mm long, unsymmetrically reniform,

Remarks: Introduced as an ornamental. Occasional in degraded forest lands, scrub and waste lands



Synadenium grantii

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: January – July

Citation: *Synadenium grantii* Hook. f. in Curtis Bot. Mag. t. 5633.1867.

Description: Succulent shrub to 4 m tall. Leaves 10-16 x 4-6 cm, spiral, subsucculent, cuneate, decurrent into petiole, apex obtuse, lateral nerves 14-18 pairs. Cyathia in lax, subterminal or axillary, cymose panicles. Peduncle red, dichotomously branched; staminate 20-30, roughly in 5 groups; pistillate single. Capsule 3-lobed of 3-bivalved cocci; seeds oblong, testa smooth

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional, along road sides and fences in dry districts.



Synedrella nodiflora

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: West Indies

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – January

Citation: *Synedrella nodiflora* (L.) Gaertn. Fruct. 2: 456.t. 171. 1791; FBI 3: 308. 1881; Gamble 2: 708 (498). 1921. *Verbesina nodiflora* L. Cent. Pl. 1: 28. 1755.

Description: Annual, erect herbs to 1 m tall. Leaves ovate or elliptic-ovate, base cuneate, margin serrate, apex acute. Heads solitary or many in clusters, heterogamous. Achenes of ray florets obovate to elliptic, winged, that of bisexual florets obovate-cuneate, 3-ribbed.

Remarks: Common weed of waste lands and gardens.



Torenia fournieri

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Australia

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Torenia fournieri* Linden ex E. Fournier, Ill. Hort. 23: 129, t. 249. 1876.

Description: Annual, erect herbs to 30 cm tall; stems quadrangular. Petiole 1-2 cm. Leaves oblong-ovate to ovate, 3-5 x 1.5-2.5 cm, subglabrous, margin coarsely serrate. Racemes often terminal; Calyx 5-winged. Corolla 2.5-4 cm, exceeding calyx by 1-2.3 cm; tube pale violet, upper side yellow; lower lip lobes purple-blue, middle lobe with a yellow patch near base; upper lip pale blue. Capsule narrowly ellipsoid ca. 12 X 0.5 mm. Seeds yellow.

Remarks: Introduced as an ornamental. Occasional weed of gardens and openings of moist forests in higher altitudes.



Tribulus lanuginosus

Family: Zygophyllaceae

Pop. Name: Land Caltrops

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: Throughout the year

Citation: *Tribulus lanuginosus* L. Sp. Pl. 1: 387. 1753 et Mant. Alt. 380. 1771.

Description: Annual or biennial, usually prostrate, pubescent herbs. Leaves up to 5 cm long; leaflets 3-6 pairs, 3-10 x 2-5 cm, ovate-oblong, base oblique, apex acute. Flowers pale yellow, solitary, axillary. Style 1.5-2.5 cm long. Fruits disc shaped, mericarps 4 x 2.5 mm, 2-4-spined.

Remarks: Common weed as like *Tribulus terrestris*.



Tribulus terrestris

Family: Zygophyllaceae

Pop. Name: Land Caltrops

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: Throughout the year

Citation: *Tribulus terrestris* L. Sp. Pl. 387.1753; FBI 1: 423.1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 130(92).1915.

Description: Annual or biennial, prostrate herbs. Leaves upto 6 cm long, opposite or spiral, leaflets 4-7 pairs, oblong, 0.5-2 x 0.2-1 cm, oblique, entire, mucronate. Flower yellow, axillary or leaf opposed, solitary. Style inconspicuous, hardly 0.5 mm long. Fruit globose, spiny of 5 cocci, each mericarp with two long, sharp divaricate spines; seeds minute, oblong, numerous.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common along railway tracks, road sides and in grasslands and degraded forests.



Tridax procumbens

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: Mexican Daisy, Coat Buttons

Nativity: Trop. Central America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: Throughout the year

Citation: *Tridax procumbens* L. Sp. Pl. 900. 1753; DC. Prodr. 5: 679. 1836; FBI 3:311. 1881; Gamble 2: 726 (511). 1921.

Description: Annual, decumbent herbs to 30 cm high. Leaves ovate, about 4 x 2.5 cm, opposite, strigose on both sides, base acute, margin coarsely serrate, apex acute. Heads solitary, terminal, yellow, heterogamous. Achenes obconical, ribbed.

Remarks: Common weed, along railway tracks, road sides, in cultivated fields and degraded forests.



Triumfetta rhomboidea

Family: Tiliaceae

Pop. Name: Bur Weed

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: June – December

Citation: *Triumfetta rhomboidea* Jacq. Enum. Syst. Pl. 22.1760; FBI 1: 395.1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 120(86). 1915. *T. angulata* Lam. Encycl. 3: 40.1789.

Description: Undershrubs. Lower leaves palmately 3-lobed, 7 x 7 cm; upper ones rhomboid to lanceolate, 2.5 x 0.6 cm, chartaceous, basally 5 nerved, stellate, pubescent, cuneate, biserrate, acuminate or acute. Cymes leaf opposed. Flowers yellow. Capsule 3 mm across, stellate tomentose; prickles 1.5 mm, glabrous; seeds 1 per cell.

Remarks: Common weed of forest openings, scrub and waste lands.



Turnera subulata

Family: Turneraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Turnera subulata* J.E. Smith in Rees, Cyclop. 36. 1702. 1819; Backer in Steenis. Fl. Males Ser. 1.4: 236. 1951. *T. ulmifolia* L. var. *elegans* (Otto) Urb. Monogr. Turn. 139.1883; Gamble 1: 523(369).1919. *Turnera elegans* Otto in Nees, Hort. Physic. Berol. 36.1820.

Description: Erect herbs, branchlets downy pubescent. Leaves 1.5-6 x 1-3 cm, ovate-oblong, 7-9 nerved, base cuneate with 2 glands, crenate, dentate, apex obtuse; petiole to 1 cm long. Flowers upto 3 cm across, white above, heterodistylous; bracteoles linear, 1-nerved, 1 cm entire, without glands. Pedicel adnate to petiole throughout. Capsule globose, to 5 mm.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional, in disturbed lands.



Turnera ulmifolia

Family: Turneraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Turnera ulmifolia* L. Sp. Pl. 271.1753. *T. ulmifolia* var. *angustifolia* (Miller) Willd. ex Urb. Monogr. Turn. 141-1883. *T. angustifolia* Miller, Gard. Dict. Ed. 8. 1768; Gamble 1: 523(369). 1919.

Description: Erect herbs, branchlets glandular-pubescent. Leaves 5-12 x 1.5-2.5 cm, ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, ca. 15 nerved, base cuneate, with 2 glands, margin crenate-serrate, apex acute; petiole to 2.5 cm long. Flowers 4 cm across, yellow, homostylous, bracteoles lanceolate, penninerved, pedicel adnate to petiole only at base. Capsule globose, to 8 mm.

Remarks: Occasional weed of habitation and disturbed lands.



Typha angustata

Family: Typhaceae

Pop. Name: Cat tail

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: May – December

Citation: *Typha angustata* Bory. & Choub. Exp. Sci. Moree, Bot. 1: 338.1833; FBI 6: 489.1893; Fischer in Gamble 3: 1571(1096).1931.

Description: Robust herb to 2 m tall; stem terete. Leaves distichous, linear, erect to 2 m long, to 3 cm broad, apex tapering, acute, base sheathing; male spikes 1 or 2, 10-20 cm long, female spikes 1 or 2 to 20 cm. Flowers yellowish. Fruit nutlet, fusiform, to 2 mm.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common weed of marshy lands and along the edges of tanks and ditches.



Urena lobata

Family: Malvaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. Africa

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – December

Citation: *Urena lobata* L. Sp. Pl. 692. 1753; FBI 1: 329. 1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 92(66). 1915; ssp. *sinuata* (L.) Borssum in Blumea 14: 142. 1966. *U. sinuata* L. Sp. Pl. 692. 1753.

Description: Shrub. Leaves deeply lobed, 3-6 x 3-7 cm, cordate-cuneate, crenate-dentate. 2-serrate, obtuse-acute. Flowers axillary, 2 or 3 in a cluster or solitary; epicalyx segments 4; petals pinkish; style 10-branched above the middle. Schizocarp globose; mericarps 5, trigonous.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common along railway tracks, road sides and in degraded forests.



Ulex europaeus

Family: Papilionaceae

Pop. Name: Gorse, Tojo

Nativity: Western Europe

Distribution in India: Western Ghats

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: July – December

Citation: *Ulex europaeus* L. Sp. Pl. 2:741. 1753.

Description: Shrubs, 5-8 m tall; young branches usually terminating in a spine, younger parts somewhat glaucous, and hirsute to tomentose. Phyllodes 4-14 mm long, usually spine-tipped. Calyx yellow, 12-16 (-20) mm long, densely villous, persistent; corolla yellow, 15-20 mm long. Pods 11-20 mm long, 6-8 mm wide, slightly compressed, densely villous. Seeds 1-4, brownish green, reniform."

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Common in high altitude areas.



Waltheria indica

Family: Sterculiaceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Waltheria indica* L. Sp. Pl. 673. 1753; FBI 1: 374. 1874; Dunn in Gamble 1: 111(79). 1915.

Description: Erect herbs or undershrubs. Leaves simple, ovate or elliptic, 2-5.5 x 1-4 cm. thin-coriaceous, leathery, basally 3-or 5-nerved, woolly, obtuse-subcordate, serrate, acute-obtuse. Flowers in axillary clusters; yellow. Capsule obconical, 2 mm, enclosed in calyx, 2-valved; seed 1, obconical, wrinkled, 1.5 mm.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Abundant along railway tracks, road sides and in degraded forests.

Note: We have in our forests and plains, two forms: densely velutinous and thinly pubescent. The former is distylous and found in open slopy forest habitats. The latter form is homostylous, found in well disturbed sites in plains. The former may be *W. americana* L. as the latter as *W. indica* L. Treated as on par with *Turnera subulata* (distylous) and *T. ulmifolia* (homostylous).



Xanthium strumarium

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: Cocklebur

Nativity: Trop. America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – March

Citation: *Xanthium strumarium* L. Sp. Pl. 987. 1753; FBI 3: 303. 1881; Gamble 2: 703 (494). 1921.

Description: Erect herbs, branchlets glandular-pubescent. Leaves 5-12 x 1.5-2.5 cm, ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, ca. 15 nerved, base cuneate, with 2 glands, margin crenate-serrate, apex acute; petiole to 2.5 cm long. Flowers 4 cm across, homostylous, bracteoles lanceolate, penninerved, pedicel adnate to petiole only at base. Capsule globose, to 8 mm.

Remarks: Aggressive colonizer. Occasional weed of cultivated fields and scrub lands.



Youngia japonica

Family: Asteraceae

Pop. Name: -

Nativity: Trop. South America

Distribution in India: Throughout

Propagation: Seeds

Fl & Fr: August – December

Citation: *Youngia japonica* (L.) DC. Prodr. 7L: 194. 1838; Grierson in Dasan & Fosb. Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 1: 268, 1980. *Prenanthes japonica* L. Mant. 107. 1767. *Crepis japonica* (L.) Benth. Fl. Hongk. 194. 1861, Hook.f. Fl. Brit. India 3:395. 1881; Gamble 2: 513. 1957 (rep.ed.).

Description: Annual, caulescent, erect, glabrous herb. Stems to 60 cm tall. Latex milky. Leaves mostly radical, rosette forming, obalceolate, lyrate, sinuate-toothed or runcinate - pinnatifid, shortly petiolate, membranous, glabrous or puberulent, 16 x 2-4 cm, lateral segments irregular, end one largest; cauline leaves a few, smaller. Floral shoots slender, 1 or many, erect, corymbose at top. Capitula many flowered, 0.4 – 0.7 cm diam. Pappus of simple hairs, silvery white and silky.

Remarks: Occasional in disturbed places of high altitude areas, waste lands and near by cultivated fields.

Invasion of *Chromolaena odorata* in Teak Plantations, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh



Invasion of *Chromolaena odorata* in forests of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh



Invasion of *Hyptis suaveolens* in Nallamalais, Andhra Pradesh



***Salvinia molesta* : aggressive colonization in wet lands of Royal Botanical Garden, Kolkata**



Invasion of *Eicchornia crassipes* in wetlands of India:
Serious threat to the indigenous biodiversity

